United Nations A/67/87

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 May 2012

Original: English

Sixty-seventh session
Item 76 (a) of the preliminary list*
Oceans and the law of the sea

Report on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

Letter dated 10 May 2012 from the Co-Chairs of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole addressed to the President of the General Assembly

We have the honour to transmit to you the attached report on the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, which sets out in section II the agreed recommendations to the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly. Pursuant to paragraph 208 of General Assembly resolution 66/231, the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole met at United Nations Headquarters from 23 to 27 April 2012.

We kindly request that the present letter and the report be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the agenda item entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea".

(*Signed*) Donatus Keith **St. Aimee**

(*Signed*) Gonçalo **da Motta**

* A/67/50.

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Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

I. Report of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole

1. Pursuant to paragraph 208 of General Assembly resolution 66/231, the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects, was held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 23 to 27 April 2012.

2. The President of the General Assembly appointed Donatus Keith St. Aimee (Saint Lucia) and Gonçalo da Motta (Portugal) as Co-Chairs of the meeting. Patricia O'Brien, Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs, the Legal Counsel, delivered opening remarks on behalf of the Secretary-General.

3. Representatives of 67 Member States, 11 intergovernmental organizations and other bodies and 2 non-governmental organizations attended the meeting.[1]

4. The following members of the Group of Experts established pursuant to paragraph 209 of General Assembly resolution 65/37 A also participated in the meeting: Enrique Marschoff (Argentina); Peter Harris (Australia); Lorna Inniss (Barbados); Saskia Van Gaever (Belgium); Jake Rice (Canada); Patricio Bernal (Chile); Juying Wang (China); George Martin (Estonia); Peyman Eghtesadi-Araghi (Islamic Republic of Iran); Sean O. Green (Jamaica); Renison Ruwa (Kenya); Chul Park (Republic of Korea); Joshua Tuhumwire (Uganda); and Alan Simcock (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).

5. The following supporting documentation was available to the meeting: (a) provisional agenda, annotated provisional agenda and format, including proposed organization of work; (b) note from the Group of Experts and revised possible outline for the first global integrated marine assessment of the Regular Process, prepared by the Group of Experts; (c) draft terms of reference and working methods for the Group of Experts; (d) report on the preliminary inventory of capacity-building for assessments, prepared by the secretariat of the Regular Process; and (e) revised draft timetable for the first global integrated marine assessment of the Regular Process.

6. On 23 April 2012, the Working Group adopted the agenda (attached as annex I to the present report) and agreed on the organization of work as proposed by the Co-Chairs. In its substantive discussions, the Working Group took note of the report of the bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole[2] and of the summaries of the workshops held under the auspices of the United Nations in support of the

[1] A complete list of participants is available on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat (www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/global_reporting.htm).

[2] The bureau is comprised of the following Member States: Argentina, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Ecuador, Estonia, Ghana, Greece, Kenya, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America.

Regular Process in Santiago, Chile, from 13 to 15 September 2011 and in Sanya, China, from 21 to 23 February 2012.

7. The Director of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea reported on the status of the trust fund established for the purpose of supporting the operations of the first five-year cycle of the Regular Process. Delegates were reminded that without additional funding it would not be possible to provide financial assistance to experts to attend future meetings of the Regular Process.

8. On 25 April 2012, the Working Group considered the process of preparing the first global integrated marine assessment, including the need to finalize the guidance for contributors contained in annex B to the set of options developed by the Group of Experts;[3] coordination with other processes dealing with assessment of the state of the marine environment; simplification of the procedure for the appointment of individual members to the pool of experts; identification of focal points to facilitate communications; and the revised draft timetable for the preparation of the first global integrated marine assessment. The members of the bureau were requested to engage States in their regional groups and encourage the nomination of individuals to the pool of experts as soon as possible.

9. On 26 April 2012, the Working Group considered communication requirements and data and information management of the Regular Process. The meeting discussed the development of the website of the Regular Process, including its legal status, content, operation and maintenance, as well as related costs and the need for financing. The Working Group also took note of the report on the preliminary inventory of capacity-building for assessments.

10. On the final day of the meeting, at the request of some delegations, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, Achim Steiner, in his capacity as the Chief of the High-level Committee on Programmes of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, gave a presentation to the Working Group, by video link from Nairobi, on the Secretary-General's initiative for an oceans compact. The presentation was made with a view to clarifying the scope of the initiative and how it overlaps with the Regular Process. In the ensuing exchange, some delegations raised questions about the initiative, including its mandate, and stressed the need for transparency.

11. Following informal consultations that were held in the course of the meeting, on 27 April 2012, the Working Group adopted the outline for the first global integrated marine assessment of the Regular Process (annex II to the present report) and the terms of reference and working methods for the Group of Experts of the Regular Process (annex III). On the same date, the Working Group took note of the revised draft timetable for the first global integrated marine assessment of the Regular Process (annex IV).

12. Based on the discussions, the Working Group adopted recommendations to the General Assembly, which are presented in section II of the present report. The Working Group recommended that its next meeting be convened in 2013.

13. On 10 May 2012, the Co-Chairs transmitted the present report to the President of the sixty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

[3] Available at www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/Set_of_Options.pdf.

II. Recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly

14. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole submits the following recommendations to the General Assembly.

(1) The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that the General Assembly adopt:

(a) The outline for the first global integrated marine assessment of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (annex II to the present report);

(b) The terms of reference and working methods for the Group of Experts of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (annex III).

(2) The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that the General Assembly take note of:

(a) The revised draft timetable for the first global integrated marine assessment of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects (annex IV);

(b) The summaries of the workshops held in Santiago, Chile, from 13 to 15 September 2011 and in Sanya, China, from 21 to 23 February 2012;[4]

(c) The report on the preliminary inventory of capacity-building for assessments (annex V).

(3) The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole urges the Group of Experts to finalize the guidance for contributors as soon as possible and, subject to the approval of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole or its bureau, to enable the pool of experts to start work on the preparation of the first global integrated marine assessment as soon as possible.

(4) The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that the General Assembly request the members of the Group of Experts, who have served in the Group of Experts for the duration of the first phase of the first assessment cycle pursuant to paragraph 209 of General Assembly resolution 65/37 A, to continue serving in the Group of Experts for the second phase of the first assessment cycle.

(5) The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that the General Assembly invite States and agencies referred to in paragraph 213 of Assembly resolution 66/231 to make every effort to respond promptly to communications from the secretariat of the Regular Process and the Group of Experts.

(6) The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that the first draft of the first global integrated marine assessment be sent to Member States for comments, and that the Group of Experts revise the first global integrated marine assessment in the light of the comments received. Once revised, the draft of the first global integrated marine assessment would be presented to the

[4] Available at www.un.org/Depts/los/global_reporting/global_reporting.htm.

bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole together with the comments received. With the approval of the bureau, the first global integrated marine assessment would be submitted for consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, and for final approval by the General Assembly.

(7) The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that the General Assembly take note of the need to identify capacity-building in the context of the Regular Process. The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole would, at its next session, further consider an approach on how to contribute to the promotion and facilitation of capacity-building through international cooperation making full use of existing opportunities and arrangements for capacity-building.

(8) The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that the General Assembly request the Secretary-General to bring the preliminary inventory of capacity-building for assessments to the attention of Member States and heads of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations engaged in activities relating to capacity-building for assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, as well as funding institutions, and invite them to contribute information to the preliminary inventory on existing opportunities and arrangements for capacity-building for assessments.

(9) The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that the General Assembly consider any need to strengthen the capacity of the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as the secretariat of the Regular Process.

(10) The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that the General Assembly note with appreciation the contributions made to the voluntary trust fund for the purpose of supporting the operations of the first five-year cycle of the Regular Process, express its serious concern regarding the limited resources available in the fund, and urge Member States, international financial institutions, donor agencies, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and natural and juridical persons to make financial contributions to those funds established pursuant to paragraph 183 of General Assembly resolution 64/71 and to make other contributions to the Regular Process.

(11) The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recommends that its next meeting be convened in 2013.

Annex I

Agenda of the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole on the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

1. Opening of the meeting.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. Report of the bureau of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.
5. Workshops in support of the first phase of the first cycle of the Regular Process.
6. Consideration of the revised possible outline for the first global integrated marine assessment of the Regular Process.
7. Consideration of the draft terms of reference and working methods of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process.
8. Process of preparing the first global integrated marine assessment of the Regular Process.
9. Communication requirements and data and information management of the Regular Process.
10. Consideration of the preliminary inventory of existing opportunities and arrangements for capacity-building for assessments.
11. Adoption of recommendations to the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly.
12. Other matters.
13. Closure of the meeting.

Annex II[a]

Outline for the first global integrated[b] marine assessment of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects[c]

Part I
Summary

This part would not follow the pattern of the main report, but highlight the most significant conclusions. It would aim to bring out:

(a) *The way in which the assessment has been carried out;*

(b) *Overall assessment of the scale of human impact on the oceans and the overall value of the oceans to humans;*

(c) *The main threats to the marine environment and human economic and social well-being;*

(d) *The needs for capacity-building and effective approaches to meeting such needs; and*

(e) *The most serious gaps in knowledge and possible ways of filling them.*

Part II
The context of the assessment

Chapter 1
Planet: oceans and life

This chapter would be a broad, introductory survey of the role played by the oceans and seas in the life of the planet, the way in which they function, and humans' relationships to them.

Chapter 4
Mandate, information sources and method of work

4.A. Objectives, scope and mandate of the Regular Process, as agreed by the General Assembly.

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[a] This document contains the outline as adopted by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole at its third meeting (23-27 April 2012). The chapters will be numbered sequentially in the first global integrated marine assessment.

[b] In this context, "integrated" means assessing impacts from a number of individual stressors and considering cumulative effects on marine ecosystems, i.e., the overall impact from multiple processes and activities overlapping in time and space.

[c] The first global integrated marine assessment will not include any analysis of policies.

4.A bis. Explanation of the rationale for the Regular Process, and the need to ensure regular assessments of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects (including an explanation of what is new in the first global integrated marine assessment).

4.B. General issues relating to the collection of environmental, economic and social data relating to the oceans and seas and human uses of them, including national, regional and global aggregation and analysis of information and data, quality assurance of data and access to information.

4.C. Description of the procedures agreed for carrying out the first global integrated marine assessment, and the way in which these procedures have been implemented, including the approach to the science/policy interface, the selection of contributors, the choices made on the establishment of baselines, the description and categorizing of uncertainties and the quality assurance of data.

Part III
Assessment of major ecosystem services from the marine environment (other than provisioning services)[d]

Several chapters in this part would draw heavily on the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The aim would be to use the work of the Panel, as well as the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, not to duplicate it or challenge it.

Chapter 8 bis
Scientific understanding of ecosystem services

Overview of the state of scientific understanding of ecosystem services, including data collection, information management, differences between different parts of the world and research needs.

Chapter 5
The oceans' role in the hydrological cycle

5.A. The interactions between the seawater and freshwater segments of the hydrological cycle: the rate of turnover and changes in it — freshwater fluxes into the sea and their interaction with it, including the effects on the marine environment of changes in those fluxes as a result of changes in continental ice sheets and glaciers, and of anthropogenic changes in those fluxes (for example, from dam-building or increased abstraction) — reduction in ice coverage — sea-level changes.

5.B. Environmental, economic and social implications of ocean warming, sea-level change, including the implications of rises in sea level for security and implications for low-lying countries, and anthropogenic and other changes to freshwater fluxes into the sea.

5.C. Chemical composition of seawater: salinity and nutrient content of the different water bodies — changes in salinity and nutrient content.

[d] The main provisioning service from the oceans is food, which is covered in part IV (Food security and food safety). Other provisioning services are covered in part V (Other human activities and the marine environment).

5.C bis. Environmental, economic and social implications of changes in salinity and nutrient content.

5.D. The oceans' role in heat transportation: ocean warming — the overall influence of the oceans on surface temperature and circulation patterns — oceanic oscillations — El Niño and similar events.

5.E. Environmental, economic and social impacts of changes in ocean temperature and of major ocean temperature events.

Chapter 6
Sea/air interaction

6.A. The role of the seas in regulating atmospheric fluxes and concentration of oxygen and carbon dioxide (oxygen production, carbon dioxide sequestration): role of the oceans and seas as carbon dioxide sinks — issues about maintaining or enhancing th..t role.

6.A bis. Scale and significance of the coal industries.

6.B. Meteorological phenomena related to the oceans: hurricanes and typhoons — monsoon rains — trade winds.

6.C. Environmental, economic and social implications of trends in meteorological phenomena, including changes in the frequency and intensity of storms, effects on seas covered by ice for much of the year and the communities that depend on them, and the implications for small island developing States.

6.D. Ocean acidification: degree and extent of ocean acidification resulting from human activities (including coral bleaching).

6.E. Environmental, economic and social implications of trends in ocean acidification (with cross-reference to part IV on food security and food safety).

Chapter 7
Primary production, cycling of nutrients, surface layer and plankton

7.A. Global distribution of primary production: the reasons for the present distribution — factors affecting cycling of nutrients and the variability and resilience of the base of the food web — changes known and foreseen, including changes in ultraviolet radiation from ozone-layer problems.

7.B. Surface layer and plankton: role of the surface layer — factors influencing it — variations in plankton species.

7.C. Environmental, economic and social implications of trends in primary production and other factors affecting the inherent variability and resilience of the base of the food web (with cross-reference to part IV on food security and food safety).

Chapter 7 bis
Ocean-sourced carbonate production

Role of ocean-sourced carbonate production in the formation of atolls and beaches — potential impacts of ocean acidification.

Chapter 8
Aesthetic, cultural, religious and spiritual ecosystem services derived from the marine environment

Scale of human interactions with the oceans and seas on the aesthetic, cultural, religious and spiritual levels, including burials at sea, and ways in which these interactions may be affected by other changes. There would also be a cross-reference to chapter 26 (Tourism and recreation).

Chapter 9
Conclusions on major ecosystems services other than provisioning services

Summary of the main issues, including capacity-building needs and information gaps, as identified in chapters 8 bis, 5, 6, 7, 7 bis and 8.

Part IV
Assessment of the cross-cutting issues: food security and food safety

This part would draw substantially on assessments carried out by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The aim would be to use the work of FAO, not to duplicate it or challenge it.

Chapter 10
Oceans and seas as sources of food

Scale of human dependence on the oceans and seas for food and pressures of increased demands, the variations between different parts of the world, and the extent to which some parts of the world depend on other parts for fish and seafood and the contribution of living marine resources to food security.

Chapter 11
Capture fisheries

11.A. Commercial fish and shellfish stocks: present status of fish and shellfish stocks that are commercially exploited and factors affecting them, including fishing practices — scale of economic activity (large-scale commercial, artisanal and recreational[e] fishing).

11.B. Other fish and shellfish stocks: present status of fish and shellfish stocks exploited by artisanal or subsistence fishing — significance for livelihoods — present status of fish stocks not currently exploited.

11.C. Impacts of capture fisheries (large-scale commercial, artisanal and subsistence fishing) on marine ecosystems, through effects on the food web, by-catch (fish, mammals, reptiles and seabirds), and different fishing gear and methods, including the impact of discards on other wildlife, and impacts from lost or abandoned fishing gear.

[e] See also chapter 26 (Tourism and recreation) on recreational fishing.

11.C.bis. Effects of pollution on living marine resources: possible effects of chemical and radioactive pollution on stocks of living marine resources used for food — implications of potential threats of such pollution.

11.D. Illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing[f]: scale, location and impacts on fish stocks.

11.E. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to capture fisheries.

11.G. Projections of the status of fish and shellfish stocks over the next decade in the light of all relevant factors.

11.F.bis. Identify gaps in capacity to engage in capture fisheries and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of capture fisheries and the status and trends of living marine resources.

Chapter 12
Aquaculture

12.A. Scale and distribution of aquaculture: locations of aquaculture activities — species cultivated — economic significance and contribution to food security.

12.B. Aquaculture inputs and effects: demand for coastal space — demand for fish meal from capture fisheries.

12.B bis. Pollution and contamination from aquaculture: use of chemicals — interactions of escaped stock with wild stocks.

12.C. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to aquaculture.

12.D. Projections of the role of aquaculture over the next decade in the light of all relevant factors.

12.E. Identify gaps in capacity to engage in aquaculture and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of aquaculture.

Chapter 12 bis
Fish stock propagation

12 A.bis. Rebuilding depleted stocks through marine ranching and release of fish from hatcheries.

12 B.bis. Transplantation of living marine resources to different ecosystems.

12 C.bis. Effects of artificial propagation on natural ecosystems.

12 D.bis. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to fish stock propagation.

12 E.bis. Identify gaps in capacity to engage in fish stock propagation and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of fish stock propagation.

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[f] As defined in the FAO International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

[g] The first global integrated marine assessment will not include any analysis of policies.

Chapter 13
Seaweeds and other sea-based food

13.A. Scale, location of collection and significance of food derived from the oceans and seas other than fish and shellfish — projected developments over the next decade.

13.B. Potential impacts of collection of seaweed and other sea-based food.

13.C. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[8] in relation to the collection of seaweeds and other sea-based food.

13.D. Identify gaps in capacity to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of seaweed and other sea-based food.

Chapter 14
Social and economic aspects of fisheries and sea-based food

14.A. Relationship with human health: health benefits and problems from sea-based food, including the potential to supplement protein-poor diets — chemical, toxic and bacterial contamination.

14.B. Scale and significance of employment in fisheries and aquaculture: numbers employed — relationship of earnings to local median earnings — scale of injuries to fishers compared to other industries.

14.C. Role of fisheries in social structure: role of fishers in local societies — extent to which fishing is the sole source of livelihood — extent to which local societies are dependent on fisheries and aquaculture.

14.E. Relationship between catch areas, ownership and operation of fishing vessels, landing ports and consumption distribution: the benefits which States (and economic operators based in them) obtain from fisheries and aquaculture.

14.E bis. Implementation of international fisheries agreements.

14.E ter. Effects of changes in markets: growth of long-distance transport of landed fish and shellfish.

14.F. Links to other industries: scale of economic activity dependent on fisheries and aquaculture, both in providing equipment (especially ships) and in processing output in value chains.

14.G. Identify gaps in capacity to engage in fisheries and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of fisheries.

Chapter 15
Conclusions on food security

15.A. Summary of the main issues, including capacity-building needs and information gaps, identified in chapters 10 to 14.

15.B. Longer-term development of food from marine resources — impacts of climate change in the context of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and based on the conclusions of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change — impacts of population changes — relation with changes in terrestrial food production.

Part V
Assessment of other human activities and the marine environment

Chapter 16
Shipping

16.A. Significance of shipping in world trade: major shipping routes — amount of world trade carried by sea — economic benefits to States from shipping activities, including as flag States — projections of changes over the next decade, including changes in shipping possibilities at high latitudes as a result of changes in ice cover.

16.C. Threats from shipping: locations, scale and trends — pollution from shipping (covering all forms of pollution regulated by annexes I to VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, anti-fouling treatments and noise) — the acoustic impact of shipping on marine organisms — shipping disasters, including their longer-term effects — invasive species through ballast water and other biosecurity risks — transport of ships for ship-breaking — risks to coastal States from shipping compared to their trade.

16.C ter. Threats to the marine environment posed by the transport by sea of hazardous and noxious substances and of radioactive substances.

16.D. Links to other industries and commerce: ship-building — ship-breaking — bunkers — insurance, chartering and navigation services.

16.F. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to shipping.

16.G. Identify gaps in capacity to engage in shipping and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of shipping, including implementation of international conventions and other instruments.

Chapter 17
Ports

17.A. Scale and significance of port activities: locations and traffic — projected growth, including the implications of changes in shipping routes considered under issue 16.A — economic benefits to port States.

17.B. Impacts of the creation and maintenance of ports: scale of port development — dredging for navigational purposes — management of ships' waste, including effects of charging regimes — pollution from ships in port — remobilization of pollutants by dredging.

17.C. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to the construction and management of ports.

17.D. Identify gaps in capacity to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of ports and monitoring their impact on the marine environment.

Chapter 18
Submarine cables and pipelines

18.A. Scale, location and role of cables and cable-laying: role in international communications and the Internet — projected developments over the next decade — employment — links to other industries — economic benefits.

18.B. Potential pollution and physical harm from cables and pipelines — during construction/installation — during use — after decommissioning.

18.C. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to pipelines and cables and pipeline and cable-laying.

18.D. Identify gaps in capacity to engage in cable-laying and pipeline installation and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of cable-laying and pipeline installation.

Chapter 19
Coastal, riverine and atmospheric inputs from land

19.A. Municipal wastewater, including the impact of major cities and of cruise ships in harbours: scale and degree of treatment — nature of impact, both through direct and riverine inputs and including impacts on microbiological quality of coastal waters, as well as economic impacts of adverse effects on water quality, especially on aquaculture and tourism — projected developments over the next decade.

19.B. Industrial discharges, including point sources: hazardous substances, including persistent organic pollutants and heavy metals — hydrocarbons — nutrients — scale of discharges (direct and riverine inputs and atmospheric transport) — degree of treatment — nature of impact, including impacts on human health through food chain — projected developments over the next decade.

19.C. Agricultural run-off and emissions: scale (direct and riverine inputs and atmospheric transport of nutrients) — nature of impact — projected developments over the next decade.

19.D. Eutrophication: combined effects of municipal, industrial and agricultural inputs (including algal blooms), considering also the effects of turbidity in coastal waters and denitrification in estuaries — cross-reference to effects on fish stocks and effects on the food web.

19.F. Inputs of radioactive substances from both nuclear and non-nuclear industries — actual, potential and suspected impacts of inputs of radioactive substances.

19.G. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to managing the impact of land-based inputs.

19.H. Identify gaps in capacity to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects related to coastal, riverine and atmospheric inputs from land.

19.I. Scale of desalinization and its environmental impacts. Identify gaps in capacity to engage in desalinization and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of desalinization.

Chapter 20
Offshore[h] hydrocarbon industries

20.A. Scale and significance of the offshore hydrocarbon industries and their social and economic benefits.

20.B. Impacts from exploration, including seismic surveys and exploitation and decommissioning.

20.D. Offshore installation disasters and their impacts, including longer-term effects.

20.G. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to offshore hydrocarbon installations.

20.H. Identify gaps in capacity to engage in offshore hydrocarbon industries and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of offshore hydrocarbon industries.

Chapter 21
Other marine-based energy industries

21.A. Scale of wind, wave, ocean thermal and tidal power generation — current, planned and forecast.

21.B. Environmental benefits and impacts of wind, wave, ocean thermal and tidal power generation.

21.C. Expected economic performance of wind, wave, ocean thermal and tidal power generation.

21.D. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to offshore wind, wave, ocean thermal and tidal power installations.

21.E. Identify gaps in capacity to engage in offshore wind, wave, ocean thermal and tidal power generation and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of offshore wind, wave, ocean thermal and tidal power generation.

Chapter 22
Offshore mining industries

22.A. Scale and significance of sand and gravel extraction: environmental impacts of sand and gravel extraction.

22.B. Economic benefits of sand and gravel extraction.

22.C. Developments in other seabed mining: current state and potential scale.

22.D. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to offshore mining industries.

22.E. Identify gaps in capacity to engage in offshore mining and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of offshore mining.

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[h] "Offshore" in this chapter and the following two chapters covers all installations that are situated in the marine environment, whether in internal waters or in maritime areas subject to the sovereignty or jurisdiction of States.

Chapter 23
Solid waste disposal

23.A. Types and amounts of waste dumped at sea, including explosives and hazardous liquids and gases, and potential impacts on the marine environment — projected levels of dumping over the next decade.

23.B. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to solid-waste dumping at sea.

23.C. Identify gaps in capacity to engage in solid-waste disposal at sea and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of solid-waste disposal at sea.

Chapter 24
Marine debris

24.A. The multiple causes of marine debris, including lack of controls on land-based disposal of waste, lack of management of beach litter and ship-generated litter, and the scale and distribution of the problem.

24.B. Approaches to combating marine debris — range of application — cases where progress has been made.

24.C. Identify gaps in capacity to control marine debris and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of marine debris.

Chapter 25
Land/sea physical interaction

25.A. Land reclamation: scale and location of land reclamation and habitat modification and the habitats affected — significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to land reclamation and habitat modification.

25.B. Erosion of land by the sea: economic and social costs of land erosion — effects on marine and coastal habitats of coastal defences, including beaches and fringing islands — implications for small island developing States — costs of coastal defences — significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to erosion of land by the sea.

25.C. Sedimentation changes: sedimentation in the marine environment as a result of land erosion by rainfall and rivers — decline in marine sedimentation as a result of water management — effect of both types of change on marine and coastal habitats, including estuaries, deltas, submarine canyons — significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to control of the causes of sedimentation change.

25.D. Identify gaps in capacity to assess land/sea physical interaction.

Chapter 26
Tourism and recreation

26.A. Location and scale of tourism and recreation, including cruise ships: employment — economic benefits of tourism — economic benefits resulting from protecting marine biodiversity.

26.A bis. Recreational and sport fishing and its impact on marine wildlife.

26.A ter. Impacts of recreational and tourist vessels on sensitive sea areas.

26.B. Contribution of tourism to problems of sewage and pollution, including from cruise ships (see also heading 19A (Municipal wastewater).

26.C. Location and scale of other environmental impacts of tourism, including habitat disturbance and destruction.

26.C bis. Relationship of tourism to protection of marine species and habitats (for example, whale-watching and whale sanctuaries).

26.D. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to managing the environmental impacts of tourism on the marine environment.

26.E. Identify gaps in capacity to assess the interface of tourism and the marine environment and the environmental, social and economic aspects of tourism.

Chapter 27
Desalinization

Scale of desalinization and its social and economic benefits. Identify gaps in capacity to engage in desalinization and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of desalinization.

Chapter 28
Use of marine genetic resources

28.A. Current topics, locations and scale of marine scientific research and exploitation, including the uses being made of marine genetic resources and associated issues such as intellectual property rights and impacts.

28.B. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] of marine scientific research relating to, and exploitation of, marine genetic resources.

28.C. Identify gaps in capacity to engage in marine scientific research relating to, and exploitation of, marine genetic resources and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of them.

Chapter 30
Marine scientific research

30.A. Topics, scale and location of marine scientific research.

30.B. Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to marine scientific research.

30.C. Identify gaps in capacity to engage in marine scientific research and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of marine scientific research, including transfer of technology.

Chapter 31
Conclusions on other human activities

Summary of the linkages between driving forces related to human activities and the state of the marine environment, having regard to the various types of pressure.

Chapter 31 sesqui
Capacity-building in relation to human activities affecting the marine environment

General conclusions on the identification of gaps in capacity to engage in the human activities described above and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of human activities affecting the marine environment.

Part VI
Assessment of marine biological diversity and habitats

Chapter 31 bis
Introduction

The aim of this part is (a) to give an overview of marine biological diversity and what is known about it; (b) to review the status and trends of, and threats to, marine ecosystems, species and habitats that have been scientifically identified as threatened, declining or otherwise in need of special attention or protection; (c) to review the significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[8] in relation to the conservation of marine species and habitats; and (d) to identify gaps in capacity to identify marine species and habitats that are identified as threatened, declining or otherwise in need of special attention or protection and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of the conservation of marine species and habitats.

Section AA — Overview of marine biological diversity

Chapter 31 ter
Scale of marine biological diversity

Main gradients of diversity for species, communities and habitats (coastal to abyssal, equatorial to polar, substrate type, salinity).

Chapter 31 quater
Extent of assessment of marine biological diversity

Proportion of major groups of species and habitats in the different marine regions that are assessed on a systematic basis for status, trends and threats.

Chapter 31 quinquies
Overall status of major groups of species and habitats

Summary, by major group and marine region, of the status, trends and threats, including the cumulative effects of pressures, shown by those assessments.

Chapters 31 quater and 31 quinquies will be structured according to the following scheme:

a. *Coastal (intertidal and shallow water (<50m)) rock and biogenic habitats (for example, kelp forests and shallow-water, tropical coral (and other biogenic) reefs)*

b. *Coastal sediment habitats, including vegetated habitats (for example, mangroves, salt marsh and other macro-vegetation areas and seagrass and eel-grass beds)*

c. *Shelf rock (~50-200m) and biogenic reef habitats*

d. *Shelf sediment habitats*

e. *Deep sea (bathyal and abyssal) habitats (for example, seamounts, deep-sea banks and plateaus, hydrothermal vents and cold-water coral (and other biogenic) reefs)*

f. *Water column habitats*

Species will be considered in relation to their related habitat (for example, pelagic cephalopods in relation to oceanic water-column habitats).

Section A — Marine ecosystems, species and habitats scientifically identified as threatened, declining or otherwise in need of special attention or protection

This section will include marine ecosystems, processes, species and habitats requiring special attention and will be structured in the light of the overview in section AA. The chapter headings below are indicative only.

Chapter 32
Coastal rock and biogenic habitats and related species

Chapter 34
Coastal sediment habitats and related species

Chapter 35
Shelf rock and biogenic reef habitats and related species

Chapter 36
Shelf sediment habitats and related species

Chapter 37
Deep sea habitats and related species

Chapter 38
Water column habitats and related species

These chapters will examine distribution, numbers, status and threats, including cumulative pressures.

Section B bis — Environmental, economic and/or social aspects of the conservation of marine species and habitats and capacity-building needs

Chapter 42 bis
Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects in relation to the conservation of marine species and habitats

Significant environmental, economic and/or social aspects[g] in relation to the conservation of marine species and habitats.

Chapter 42 ter
Capacity-building needs

Identification of gaps in capacity to identify marine species and habitats that are identified as threatened, declining or otherwise in need of special attention or protection and to assess the environmental, social and economic aspects of the conservation of marine species and habitats.

Section C — Summary on marine biological diversity

Chapter 43
Summary on marine biological diversity

Summary of the main issues, including capacity-building needs and information gaps, identified in chapters 31 bis to 42 ter.

Part VII
Overall assessment

Chapter 44
Overall assessment of human impact on the oceans

44.A. Consideration of the implications of cumulative pressures on the overall state of the oceans and seas.

44.B. Evaluations under different methods of assessing overall human impact on the oceans and seas.

Chapter 45
Overall value of the oceans to humans

Evaluations under different methods of the benefits accruing to humans from the oceans, including assessment of the costs of environmental degradation.

Appendix

Terminology

1. Terminology used to describe the major features of the ocean basins and linked seas

1.A. A short summary of the technical terms used to describe the main geological features: enclosed and semi-enclosed seas — continental shelves and slopes — mid-ocean ridges — seamounts — coral and other biogenic reefs — sedimentation — major estuaries — fjord and ria areas — ocean canyons — coastal geological structures, beaches, marine wetlands, mangroves and tidal flats.

1.B. A short summary of the technical terms used to describe the main features of the water column: bodies of water — thermohaline circulation — the main ocean currents — deep water formation (downwelling) and upwelling — stratification — acidification — ice coverage.

2. Legal concepts relating to the marine environment

This section would include quotations from the relevant parts of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea so that readers can see what is intended when terms from that instrument are used.

Annex III

Terms of reference and working methods for the Group of Experts of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 180 of its resolution 64/71, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to invite the Chairs of the regional groups to constitute a group of experts, ensuring adequate expertise and geographical distribution, comprised of a maximum of 25 experts and no more than 5 experts per regional group, for a period up to and including the informal meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole to be held from 30 August to 3 September 2010.

2. In its paragraph 209 of its resolution 65/37 A, the General Assembly decided to establish a group of experts to be an integral part of the Regular Process and requested the members of the Group of Experts, who had been appointed by Member States pursuant to paragraph 180 of resolution 64/71, to continue serving on the Group of Experts for the duration of the first phase of the first assessment cycle, and encouraged regional groups that had not yet done so to appoint experts to the Group of Experts in accordance with paragraph 180 of resolution 64/71.

3. The present document, prepared by the secretariat of the Regular Process in consultation with the Group of Experts, defines the terms of reference for the experts appointed to, or to be appointed to, the Group of Experts.

II. Terms of reference

4. The general task of the Group of Experts shall be to carry out any assessments within the framework of the Regular Process at the request of the General Assembly[a] under the supervision of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole. In particular, the tasks of the Group of Experts shall be:

(a) To draft an outline of questions to be considered in the main assessment to be undertaken in each cycle of the Regular Process, for approval by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole;

(b) To provide specifications of the types of additional expertise that the Group of Experts will need to carry out any assessment, as a basis for appointments, through the regional groups, of members of the pool of experts;

(c) To designate from among its members a lead member and, as appropriate, other members to take responsibility, under the overall responsibility of the Group of Experts, for each part, section or chapter of any assessment subject to the approval of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole or its bureau;

[a] It is understood that to carry out any assessment the approval of the General Assembly is required.

(d) To propose assignments for approval by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole or its bureau of members of the pool of experts:

(i) To work with the designated lead member of the Group of Experts in drafting working papers and/or draft chapters of any assessment;

(ii) To review and comment on material produced for any assignment;

(e) To draft an implementation plan and timetable for every assessment, for approval by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, and, if necessary, to propose amendments to that plan and timetable for approval in the same way;

(f) To provide general guidance to all those involved in carrying out any assessment based on the principles and documents approved by the General Assembly;[b]

(g) To carry out the implementation plan in accordance with the timetable and any such general guidance;

(h) To review all material produced for any assessment, to take such steps as it considers necessary to assure the quality of data and information used in such material, and to take any further steps necessary to bring the assessment to a satisfactory conclusion, subject to the approval of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole if any such action would require expenditure from the trust fund for the Regular Process;

(i) To propose arrangements for approval by the bureau for the peer review of the draft output of any assessment;

(j) In the light of the comments from the peer review, to agree on a final text of any assessment for submission through its bureau to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole, and to present that text to the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole;

(k) To promote networking among marine assessment processes and individual experts;

(l) To perform any other tasks assigned to it by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

Composition

5. The Group of Experts shall be composed as follows:

(a) The Group of Experts shall be composed of a maximum of 25 experts and no more than 5 experts per regional group. Its composition shall reflect geographic and gender balance;

(b) The composition shall ensure a mix of disciplinary expertise and involve participants from all regions in order to take into account different regional circumstances and experience. All of the main disciplines in the social, economic and environmental sciences should be considered for inclusion;

(c) The experts may be drawn from any type of affiliation (e.g. Government, non-governmental organization, intergovernmental organization, private sector, academic and research institutions, holders of traditional knowledge);

[b] See resolutions 66/231, 65/37 A and 64/71.

(d) The experts shall have experience and expertise in one or several of the categories described in the collective profile of the Group of Experts;

(e) The experts shall have internationally recognized excellence in their field or fields of expertise;

(f) The experts shall have demonstrated high-level participation in international processes relevant to the marine environment;

(g) The experts shall have the ability to serve in an independent, personal capacity.

Appointments

6. Members of the Group of Experts shall be appointed in accordance with resolution 65/37 A as follows:

(a) Members shall be nominated by the States Members of the United Nations through the five regional groups (African States, Asia-Pacific States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States), with each regional group nominating up to five experts;

(b) Nominations shall take account of the criteria for the appointment of experts;

(c) Members shall be in a position to devote substantial amounts of time to the work of the Regular Process;

(d) Membership shall be renewed at the start of each cycle of the Regular Process. Existing members of the Group of Experts may be reappointed;

(e) An appointment to fill a vacancy occurring during a cycle may be made at any time, but the appointment shall come to an end at the end of the cycle during which it is made;

(f) The chair of a regional group shall inform the secretariat of the Regular Process that the regional group has made an appointment to the Group of Experts. The secretariat of the Regular Process shall issue a letter of confirmation of the appointment to the expert and inform the coordinators of the Group of Experts accordingly;

(g) If a member of the Group of Experts dies or resigns or for any other cause can no longer perform his or her duties, another member appointed from the same regional group shall serve for the remainder of the predecessor's term;

(h) Members shall participate in the Group of Experts in their personal capacity and not as a representative of a Government or of any authority external to the United Nations.

Proprietary rights

7. The United Nations shall be entitled to all property rights, including but not limited to patents, copyrights and trademarks, with regard to material which bears a direct relation to, or is made in consequence of, the services provided to the Organization.

Compensation

8. Members of the Group of Experts shall not receive any honorarium, fee or other remuneration from the United Nations for their participation in the Group of Experts. Members from developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing States, will, subject to the availability of resources, receive travel assistance to participate in the meetings to be convened by the United Nations in conjunction with the work of the Group of Experts.

Working methods

9. The working methods of the Group of Experts shall be as follows:

(a) The Group of Experts may operate even if there are vacancies in its composition;

(b) The Group of Experts shall designate two coordinators from among its members, one from a developed country and one from a developing country. The task of the coordinators shall be to take such actions as they jointly consider will facilitate the discharge by the Group of Experts of the tasks which it has been given. The Group of Experts may change the designation of the coordinators at any time;

(c) Communications between the Group of Experts, the secretariat of the Regular Process and States shall be made through a secure website, as appropriate;

(d) The Group of Experts shall communicate with the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole through the secretariat of the Regular Process and through meetings convened by the secretariat of the Regular Process, within existing resources;

(e) When needed and within existing resources, the Group of Experts may meet to discuss areas of work which cannot be dealt with through electronic meetings or other forms of electronic communication;

(f) The Group of Experts shall aim to work by consensus. Where consensus cannot be achieved, the Group of Experts shall ensure that all divergent opinions are appropriately reported in any draft, any proposal or any final text of any assessment.

Secretariat

10. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as part of its functions as secretariat of the Regular Process, shall serve as the secretariat of the Group of Experts.

Annex IV

Revised draft timetable for the first global integrated marine assessment of the Regular Process for Global Reporting and Assessment of the State of the Marine Environment, including Socioeconomic Aspects

Date	*Action or event*
A. Completed actions	
August-September 2009	The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole considers the "assessment of assessments", agrees on the overall framework for the Regular Process and the timing for the first cycle, agrees on the need for more time and recommends the appointment of an interim Group of Experts.
March 2010	The General Assembly endorses the overall framework and timing of the first cycle, asks for States' views on the fundamental building blocks and arranges for a further meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole and the appointment of an interim Group of Experts.
June 2010	The interim Group of Experts provides suggestions on the fundamental building blocks.
September 2010	The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole agrees on modalities for implementing the Regular Process, including capacity-building.
December 2010	The General Assembly approves the modalities for implementing the Regular Process, establishes the Group of Experts and asks them to provide options to achieve the deadline of 2014.
February 2011	The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole recognizes the need for regional workshops and the appointment of a pool of experts to support the Group of Experts and agrees on the need for communication systems.
May 2011	The General Assembly approves the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole and requests it to meet again in June 2011.
June 2011	The Group of Experts provides a preliminary inventory of types of experts for workshops.
June 2011	The Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole agrees on the criteria for the appointment of experts, the guidelines for workshops and the establishment of the bureau.
September 2011	A regional workshop for the South-East Pacific is held in Santiago, Chile.

Date	*Action or event*
December 2011	The General Assembly approves the criteria for the appointment of experts, the guidelines for workshops and arrangements for the bureau.
January 2012	The secretariat of the Regular Process issues call for nomination of members of the pool of experts.
February 2012	A regional workshop for Eastern and South-Eastern Asian Seas is held in Sanya, China.
B. Proposed actions	
April 2012	At its third meeting, the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole agrees on the terms of reference and methods of work for the Group of Experts and the outline of the first global integrated marine assessment.
April 2012	The Group of Experts meets to discuss methods of achieving an integrated assessment and organization of drafting.
June 2012	A regional workshop for the North Atlantic, the Baltic Sea, the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea is held in Brussels.
July-August 2012	Regional workshops are held for the West Indian Ocean and the South-West Pacific.
August-September 2012	A regional workshop is held for the wider Caribbean.
June-September 2012	Other regional workshops are held (if feasible).
February 2012-September 2012	Appointments by States of experts to the pool of experts based on the criteria for the appointment of experts.
October 2012	Meeting of the Group of Experts (3-5 days) to (a) finalize guidance to authors; (b) identify lead drafters for working papers; and (c) identify teams of consultors for issues.
October or November 2012	Coordinators of the Group of Experts provide a briefing to delegates on progress during the occasion of the informal consultations on the draft resolution on oceans and the law of the sea.
October-November 2012	Meeting of the bureau to consider the items proposed by the Group of Experts.
November 2012-February 2013	Lead drafters prepare working papers.
March 2013 (and at other points, if necessary)	The Group of Experts identifies needs for further appointments of experts to the pool of experts.
March-April 2013	Consultors comment on working papers.
April-May 2013	Possible meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.

Date	*Action or event*
April-May 2013	Meeting of the Group of Experts (3 days) to review progress and consider working papers in order to (a) find ways to fill gaps and resolve contradictions; and (b) ensure an integrated approach.
May-June 2013	Lead drafters revise working papers in the light of comments from consultors and the Group of Experts.
June 2013	Meeting of the bureau (if necessary) to consider the outcome of the meeting of the Group of Experts and to agree on consequential actions.
April-August 2013 (and at other points, if necessary)	States make further appointments to the pool of experts.
August 2013	Meeting of the Group of Experts (3 days) to (a) recommend any necessary changes to the outline of the first global integrated marine assessment in the light of comments on working papers; (b) review progress (including the state of the working papers and make any necessary adjustments); (c) identify lead drafters for draft chapters; and (d) recommend arrangements for peer review (all subject to approval of the bureau).
September 2013	Meeting of the bureau to consider the outcome of the meeting of the Group of Experts and to agree on consequential actions.
October-December 2013	Lead drafters prepare draft chapters.
October or November 2013	Coordinators of the Group of Experts to provide a briefing on progress to delegates on the occasion of the informal consultations on the draft resolution on oceans and the law of the sea.
End December 2013	Completion of draft chapters by lead authors.
January-February 2014	Consultors comment on draft chapters.
February-March 2014	Lead authors revise draft chapters in the light of comments.
March-April 2014	Group of Experts prepares draft first global integrated marine assessment.
April-May 2014	Possible meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.
April-May 2014	Meeting of the Group of Experts (5-10 days) to complete the draft first global integrated marine assessment.

Date	*Action or event*
May 2014	The Group of Experts provides briefing on progress on the occasion of the meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (review phase) in its consideration of the oceans and seas thematic cluster.
June-August 2014	Review of the draft first global integrated marine assessment by States and peer reviewers.
September 2014	Meeting of the Group of Experts (5-10 days) to finalize the first global integrated marine assessment.
October 2014	Copy-editing of the final text of the first global integrated marine assessment.
End October 2014	Submission of the final text of the first global integrated marine assessment by the Group of Experts to the secretariat of the Regular Process.
October-December 2014	Translation of the summary and the first global integrated marine assessment in all the official languages.
December 2014	Publication of the first global integrated marine assessment.
December 2014	Consideration of the summary by the bureau in preparation for its consideration by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole.
February 2015	Consideration and adoption of the first global integrated marine assessment by the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole and related recommendations to the General Assembly.
May 2015	The Group of Experts provides a briefing on the first global integrated marine assessment on the occasion of the meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development (policy phase) in its consideration of the oceans and seas thematic cluster.
Late autumn 2015	The General Assembly considers the first global integrated marine assessment during its seventieth session.

Note: This draft timetable implies:

(a) Two possible meetings of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole (2013 and 2014) before the first global integrated marine assessment is finalized (December 2014). These meetings may not be needed if decisions can be delegated to the bureau and delegations can take advantage of the briefings by the Coordinators of the Group of Experts on the occasion of the informal consultations on the draft resolution on oceans and the law of the sea;

(b) Five meetings of the Group of Experts of the Regular Process (in addition to the one planned in April 2012 in parallel to the third meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of the Whole): October 2012 (3-5 days), May 2013 (3 days), August 2013 (3 days), May 2014 (5-10 days) and September 2014 (5-10 days). Further meetings of the Group of Experts may be needed if the work cannot be completed in the time available for these meetings.

Annex V

Report on the preliminary inventory of capacity-building for assessments

1. In paragraph 204 of its resolution 66/231, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to bring the preliminary inventory of existing opportunities and arrangements for capacity-building for assessments (A/66/189, annex V, appendix I) to the attention of Member States, heads of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations engaged in activities relating to capacity-building for assessment of the state of the marine environment, including socioeconomic aspects, as well as funding institutions, and invite their contribution to the preliminary inventory.

2. On 3 January 2012, the secretariat of the Regular Process invited Member States, heads of the specialized agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations, as well as funding institutions, to contribute to the preliminary inventory. In response, contributions were received from two Member States and 11 intergovernmental organizations and bodies.

3. These contributions have been reflected in the appendix to the present report, which is to be read in conjunction with the above-mentioned preliminary inventory.

Appendix

Contributions to the preliminary inventory of existing opportunities and arrangements for capacity-building for assessments

A. States

China

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC) Regional Training and Research Centre on Ocean Dynamics and Climate

Recipient developing States	Mainly developing States of the Western Pacific region
Form of assistance	Regional
Area of assistance	Based at the First Institute of Oceanography of the State Oceanic Administration of China, the Centre on Ocean Dynamics and Climate is China's first oceanic research and training centre within the UNESCO framework. The objective of the Centre is to enhance the regional research capacity and capability on ocean dynamics, air-sea interactions, climate change and numerical modelling through, among other means, regular training courses in English once a year for approximately 15 to 20 junior scientists and doctoral/master students mainly from developing member States of the IOC Subcommission for the Western Pacific. Further information is available at www.fio.org.cn/english/training_center/index.htm.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Marine Sustainable Development Centre

Recipient developing States	APEC member States
Form of assistance	Regional
Area of assistance	Based at the Third Institute of Oceanography of the State Oceanic Administration of China, the Centre aims at strengthening exchanges and cooperation in marine policies, economic, management, technology and other fields, including through demonstration projects, to achieve sustainable growth in the Asia-Pacific region.

World Meteorological Organization-IOC Regional Marine Instrument Centre for the Asia-Pacific Region

Recipient developing States	Developing States from the region
Form of assistance	Regional

Area of assistance	Based at the National Centre of Ocean Standards and Metrology of Tianjin, China, the Centre forms part of a network of regional marine instrument centres established to provide (a) facilities for the calibration and maintenance of marine instruments and the monitoring of instrument performance; (b) assistance with regard to comparisons among instruments; and (c) appropriate training facilities. The goal of regional marine instrument centres is to facilitate adherence of observational data and metadata and processed observational products to higher level standards for instruments and methods of observation. Further information is available at http://www.ioc-cd.org/.

China regional centre for the Western Pacific region, International Ocean Institute

Recipient developing States	Developing States of the region
Form of assistance	Regional
Area of assistance	Based at the National Marine Data and Information Service Centre of China, the centre aims at exploring effective training modes for capacity-building in the field of integrated ocean management. Requests for information should be directed to ioihq@ioihq.org.mt.

Coastal Sustainable Development Training Centre

Recipient developing States	Developing countries in the South-East Asian region
Form of assistance	Regional
Area of assistance	The Centre aims at meeting domestic or overseas trainees' needs for the enhancement of sustainable development awareness and integrated coastal management skills, as well as training requirements for coastal management capacity-building. Information is available at http://icsd.xmu.edu.cn/en-ctc/.

Norway

Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries-Nansen Programme

Recipient developing States	All, with an early emphasis on sub-Saharan Africa
Form of assistance	Global

Area of assistance	The objectives of the Programme are to apprise partners of procedures and methods for assessment and monitoring of key ecosystem properties, including the development of standardized data collection, sampling methods and appropriate set of scientific indicators; to increase capacity at scientific and management level on the ecosystem approach to marine fisheries; to provide advice on the use of national or regional research vessels, including coordinated coverage by local or other vessels; and to assist in project planning and dissemination of information. In sub-Saharan Africa the project supports the 32 States that are parties to the four large marine ecosystem projects. States may request the use of a research vessel to undertake specific surveys for example of fish stocks and environmental status in connection with offshore petroleum activities. The user contributes $10,000 per day to the vessel operating costs (approximately one third of the total operating costs). Further information is available at www.eaf-nansen.org/nansen/en.

Climate effects on marine biodiversity in the Benguela Current

Recipient developing States	Angola, Namibia, South Africa
Forms of assistance	Regional/national
Area of assistance	Based on data collected through the Nansen Programme together with other relevant data, the project aims at identifying and describing possible trends and variability in ocean climate and corresponding changes in marine biodiversity and fisheries in the Benguela current system. The project is supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

Implementation of the Benguela Current Commission Science Programme

Recipient developing States	Angola, Namibia, South Africa
Form of assistance	Regional
Area of assistance	The Benguela Current Commission is mandated to implement an ecosystem approach to the management of natural resources, such as fish and shellfish, in the Benguela Current. Environmental concerns form the basis of the Commission's work. Norway provides funding for its science programme, which aims to provide the best available scientific advice for regional management of the Benguela Current.

Institutional cooperation on shrimp resources management

Recipient developing States	Mozambique
Form of assistance	National technical assistance

Area of assistance	Technical assistance and management advice for shrimp assessments are carried out by the Fisheries Research Institute in Mozambique. Information is available at www.imr.no/en.

B. International funding institutions and intergovernmental organizations, programmes, funds and specialized agencies

Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources

General Science Capacity Special Fund

Recipient developing States	Member States of the Commission
Form of assistance	Regional
Area of assistance	The Commission awards scholarships to assist early career scientists to participate in the work of its Scientific Committee and its working groups. Scholarships are normally awarded annually; however, the frequency of awards depends upon scientific priorities and funding. The objective of the Fund is to contribute to building capacity within the Commission's scientific community to generate the scientific expertise required to support the Commission in the long term. Scholarships of up to 30,000 Australian dollars over a period of two years are available to cover travel, accommodation and subsistence at Scientific Committee workshops or working group meetings, relevant preparatory meetings and special meetings of the Scientific Committee. Scholarships are open to scientists from member States of the Commission. Preference is given to early career scientists who have not previously, or routinely, participated in Commission working groups and are actively seeking to participate in the scientific work of the Commission . Although candidates are sought from all member States, particular preference is given to early career scientists from developing countries and those from countries having received low numbers of scholarships in past years. Opportunities for scholarships are advertised by member States, particularly in their scientific institutions, and by observers to the Commission, in early June each year. The deadline for application is mid-September. Information relating to the Fund is available from science_scholarship@ccamlr.org.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

Strengthening fisheries associations and women's access to productive tools (FAO regular programme)

Recipient developing States	All
Form of assistance	Global
Area of assistance	Strengthening local and national institutions and fishers' associations relevant to fisheries governance for improved performance and management, through effective and gender-sensitive stakeholder participation, especially for small-scale fisheries. Specific activities involve (a) expert, civil society organizations and fishers' consultations (global level); (b) global case studies on capacity-building needs and assessments; (c) development of a capacity development programme to promote the strengthening of associations and women's access to productive tools and to assist member countries to foster appropriate policies enabling fishers' associations to operate effectively (subject to funding).

Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission)

Project on Reduction of the Eutrophication of the Baltic Sea Today

Recipient developing States	States of the Baltic Sea region
Form of assistance	Regional project funded by the European Union
Area of assistance	The project aims at combating eutrophication by improving municipal wastewater treatment with technical studies and concrete investments and by increasing human competence. In particular, in the field of capacity-building, the project aims at increasing the competence of operating staff of the wastewater treatment plants, plant designers and trainers of future wastewater engineers. This goal is being reached through a series of courses on modern wastewater treatment and showcasing of practical examples of reconstruction projects in their different stages. The Technical University of Berlin is the responsible partner for organizing the courses. Information is available at www.prestobalticsea.eu/.

Environmental monitoring of the Black Sea with focus on nutrient pollution (Baltic2Black) 2011-2013

Recipient developing States	States of the Baltic Sea and Black Sea regions
Form of assistance	Regional project funded by the European Union

Area of assistance	This three-year project funded by the European Commission aims to promote measures to facilitate the delivery by the Black Sea Commission of integrated regional monitoring and assessment products, with focus on nutrient pollution and eutrophication, through the transfer of existing best practices from other regions, in particular the Baltic Sea. The project is implemented jointly by the Black Sea Commission and the Helsinki Commission. Information is available at www.blacksea-commission.org/_projects_Baltic2Black.asp and www.helcom.fi/projects/on_going/en_GB/Baltic2Black/.

Project on Control of Hazardous Substances in the Baltic Sea Region

Recipient developing States	States of the Baltic Sea region
Form of assistance	Regional project funded by the European Union
Area of assistance	One vital goal of the project is to build capacity and transfer knowledge in some countries of the Baltic Sea region by bridging the experiences from the experts and harmonizing the understanding of hazard concepts into international level. Series of training and awareness-raising sessions have been arranged for authorities and industries. Information is available at www.helcom.fi/projects/on_going/en_GB/cohiba/.

Balthazar project 2009-2012

Recipient developing States	Russian Federation
Form of assistance	Regional project funded by the European Union
Area of assistance	The project focuses, inter alia, on capacity-building in monitoring and assessment, contributing to the harmonization of the assessment methods in the whole Baltic Sea region in order to have comparable and reliable results for assessments and evaluation of sources for hazardous substances as well as nutrients. Information is available at www.helcom.fi/projects/on_going/balthazar/en_GB/BALTHAZAR/.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Environment Laboratories

IAEA analytical quality control services

Recipient developing States	All
Form of assistance	Global

Area of assistance	The IAEA Environment Laboratories have been assisting national and regional laboratory networks through the provision of analytical quality control services for the analysis of radionuclides, trace elements and organic compounds in marine samples since the early 1970s. The Laboratories' activities include training in analytical techniques and quality of measurement data, global inter-laboratory studies, regional proficiency tests, production and provision of certified reference materials and metrology in chemistry. One major task of the Laboratories is to produce matrix reference and certified reference materials of marine origin [a]

IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme

Recipient developing States	All
Form of assistance	Global
Area of assistance	The IAEA Environment Laboratories provide support to member States' capacity-building through national, regional and interregional technical cooperation projects and training programmes implemented in the framework of the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme. Between 2009 and 2011 the IAEA Environment Laboratories have hosted and/or organized regional courses for over 450 participants. The courses involve hands-on field and laboratory work, lectures and online learning. Training modules for courses of 15-40 participants are available for sampling and basic analytical techniques, advanced analytical techniques and quality of measurement data, experimental tracer applications to ecosystem and environmental studies, pollution assessment, risk assessment. Information relating to the programme is available at http://tc.iaea.org/tcweb/tcprogramme/default.asp.

IAEA coordinated research programmes

Recipient developing States	All
Form of assistance	Global
Area of assistance	Coordinated research programmes are developed by IAEA in relation to a well-defined research topic on which a certain number of institutions are invited to collaborate with a view to bringing together researchers from developing and industrialized countries to address issues of common interest. Information is available at www-crp.iaea.org/.

[a] IAEA provides reference materials to laboratories worldwide to assist them in increasing the quality of the results they obtain by nuclear analytical techniques. For a list of reference materials distributed by the Agency, see http://nucleus.iaea.org/rpst/ReferenceProducts/About/index.htm.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas[b]

Data fund of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

Recipient developing States	All
Form of assistance	Regional
Area of assistance	The fund was created to support training in data collection and participation in data preparation and stock assessment sessions of the Standing Committee on Research and Statistics for scientists who are nationals of Contracting Parties with insufficient capacity to meet data collection, quality assurance and reporting obligations. The fund is open to voluntary contributions from Contracting Parties.

Meeting participation fund of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas

Recipient developing States	All
Form of assistance	Regional
Area of assistance	The special meeting participation fund was established in 2011 for the purpose of helping representatives of developing State Contracting Parties to attend and/or contribute t he work of the Commission and other subsidiary bodies.

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

Training programme of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

Recipient developing States	All
Form of assistance	Global
Area of assistance	The Council has developed a training programme in response to the need for strengthening capacity-building for the next generation of scientists working on human activities affecting marine ecosystems. In the first three years, 14 courses have been offered in a wide variety of skills, including stock assessment (introductory and advanced), ecosystem modelling, model building, management strategy evaluation, Bayesan inference, fisheries advice, trawl survey design and evaluation and integrated ecosystem assessment. Nearly 400 students from over 30 countries have attended the courses. Information on the courses offered in 2012 and other aspects of the programme is available at www.ices.dk/iceswork/training/training.asp.

[b] While the Commission's funds are not specifically aimed at capacity-building for assessments of the state of the marine environment, they are used, inter alia, to assist scientists through meeting participation, training courses and workshops which enhance their ability for stock assessments of species under the Commission's mandate.

International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)

Capacity-building work programme

Recipient developing States	All
Forms of assistance	Global/regional
Area of assistance	Capacity-building within IHO is organized on a regional basis through 15 regional hydrographic commissions and the Hydrographic Commission on Antarctica. The programme includes seminars, workshops, technical visits and any other actions directed to development purposes. The programme does not consider any individual proposal that is not presented through the corresponding regional hydrographic commission. Information on the types of training provided by IHO is available at www.iho.int/srv1/.

IHO Special Publication C-47 (2010), *Training Courses in Hydrography and Nautical Cartography*

Recipient developing States	All
Form of assistance	Publication
Area of assistance	The publication provides a compilation of all training opportunities offered by various institutions in the two disciplines. It can be downloaded at no cost from the IHO website at www.iho.int/iho_pubs/CB/C47E-SEPT09-UPDATED-APRIL11.pdf.

Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC)

IOC programme on integrated coastal and ocean management

Recipient developing States	All
Form of assistance	Regional
Area of assistance	Training course for coastal/ocean management authorities on the development of indicator frameworks (environmental, socioeconomic, governance) for marine assessments and ocean/coastal planning. A regional course is organized regularly (once a year). Travel/accommodation support is provided to participants. Contact: j.barbiere@unesco.org.

International Oceanographic Data and Information Exchange — OceanTeacher Academy

Recipient developing States	All
Forms of assistance	Global/regional

Area of assistance	OceanTeacher Academy offers a range of training courses, all of them freely available on www.oceanteacher.org, and includes a digital library. Sessions of the courses are recorded and the videos made available through Vimeo (http://vimeo.com/iode). All courses are taught in English, except for regional courses which may be organized in the local language (usually French or Spanish). Eligibility for sponsorship (either full or partial) depends on the development status of the applicant's country and possibility of co-sponsorship by the candidate's home organization. An endorsement letter from the candidate's home organization is mandatory in case of full sponsorship. Contacts: p.pissierssens@unesco.org and cdelgado.otiode@gmail.com.
Ocean data and information networks	
Recipient developing States	All
Forms of assistance	Global/regional
Area of assistance	Ocean data and information networks have been established for Africa (www.odinafrica.org), the Caribbean and Latin America (www.odincarsa.org), the Western Pacific region (www.odinwestpac.org), Eastern Europe (http://odinecet.iode.org), small island States in the Pacific (www.pimrisportal.org), and the Black Sea region (www.odinblacksea.org). The projects are self-driven by participating countries. Some focus on both ocean data management and information (library) management, whereas others focus solely on library management. Eligibility is limited to participating member States. Contact: p.pissierssens@unesco.org
IOC Identification Qualification in Harmful Marine Microalgae (University of Copenhagen)	
Recipient developing States	All
Form of assistance	Global
Area of assistance	Monitoring and assessment of marine phytoplankton and harmful algal events. The four-week training course includes online learning (OceanTeacher) and examination for professionals and technicians. Information is available at www.ioc-unesco.org/hab/.
Caribbean Marine Atlas	
Recipient developing States	Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, and the Turks and Caicos Islands
Form of assistance	Regional

Area of assistance	The purpose of the project is to identify, collect and organize available geo-spatial data sets into an atlas of environmental themes for the Caribbean region as a support service to the sustainable development and integrated management of marine and coastal areas in the region. Information is available at www.caribbeanmarineatlas.net/. Contacts: p.pissierssens@unesco.org and rroach@coast.gov.bb.

Project entitled "People for ecosystem-based governance in assessing sustainable development of ocean and coast"

Recipient developing States	All
Forms of assistance	Regional project funded by the European Union
Area of assistance	IOC is one of the 24 partners involved in the project, which aims, inter alia, at refining and further developing efficient and easy-to-use tools for making sustainability assessments in the coastal zone (indicators, accounting methods, models and scenarios), which will be tested and validated at a number of pilot sites in the Mediterranean Sea and the Black Sea. Information is available at www.pegasoproject.eu/. The project coordinator is Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona. Contact: francoise.breton@uab.cat.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Greening Development: Enhancing Capacity for Environmental Management and Governance, OECD Publishing, 2012

Recipient developing States	All
Form of assistance	Publication
Area of assistance	The publication outlines steps to be considered when building capacity for greening national development planning, national budgetary processes and key economic sector strategies. It identifies the key actors to be engaged in the decision-making processes, outlines possible capacity needs and suggests how these can be addressed. The policy guidance provided in the publication is intended to support developing countries in their efforts to move to a greener development path. It is also intended to assist development cooperation and environment agencies in their efforts to support that process. The publication can be downloaded at no cost at www.oecd-ilibrary.org/books.

C. Regional organizations

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Regional project on the analysis of the impact of climate change on the coasts of Latin America and the Caribbean

Recipient developing States	States of the region
Form of assistance	Regional
Area of assistance	The project has been jointly developed with the University of Cantabria, Spain, and the Government of Spain. The results of the research are revealed in six documents, the first of which is available in Spanish at www.cepal.org/publicaciones/xml/2/45542/W.447.pdf. The remaining documents and a website with a database will be made available during 2012. In 2011, a regional workshop was organized and attended by national officers of the Iberoamerican Network of Offices of Climate Change and international experts, who discussed the application of methodologies of assessment and the use of databases to identify the impacts of climate change and adaptation on the coasts of Latin America and the Caribbean. For 2012, another workshop will be offered on the same subject matter. The development of a case study in one country of the region is under consideration.

Organization of American States

ReefFix: an integrated coastal zone management coral reef and mangrove restoration, watershed management and capacity-building demonstration project for the Caribbean

Recipient developing States	Small island developing States of the Caribbean region
Form of assistance	Regional
Area of assistance	ReefFix, supported by the Government of Chile, aims at improving the understanding and management of the region's coastal and marine resources through restoration demonstration and capacity-building activities. Its methodology has already been applied to nine case study sites in the Caribbean, followed by a workshop. Information is available at www.oas.org/dsd/IABIN/Component1/ReefFix/ReefFix.htm.